

**IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE**

AUG 08 2002

Applicant: Grindstaff et al. Examiner: Leslie Wong  
Serial No. 09/770,031 Group Art Unit: 1761  
Filed: January 25, 2001 Docket No. 707.001US1  
Title: SHAPED CHEESE RECONSTRUCTION WITH TRANSGLUTAMINASE

**RESPONSE AND AMENDMENT TO NON-FINAL OFFICE ACTION**

U.S. Patent and Trademark Office  
Box Amendment  
Assistant Commissioner of Patents  
Washington, D.C. 20231

**MAILED**

AUG - 8 2002

Dear Sir:

This Amendment is being filed in response to the Office Action mailed on March 26, 2002. A Petition for One-Month Extension of Time and authorization to debit Deposit Account No. 50-1391 accompanies this Amendment.

**GROUP 1700**

**RECEIVED**

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**TC 1700**

**IN THE CLAIMS**

Please amend the claims as follows. A clean copy of the amended claims in compliance with 37 C.F.R. 1.121 appears at the end of this Amendment.

1. (AMENDED) A process for the structuring of a cheese portion comprising:  
providing portions of curd or cheese in segments of a first average dimension and having a total surface area,  
adding to said segments a composition comprising transglutaminase to at least five percent of said total surface area of said segments, said composition providing a bonding-sufficient amount of transglutaminase to said total surface area,  
pressing said portions together, while the bonding-sufficient amount of transglutaminase to said total surface area of the curd or cheese segments is present on the surface of the curd or cheese segments, to eliminate air between said portions while forming a volume of curds or cheese that is larger than [an] a single portion of said portions of curds or cheese,  
allowing said transglutaminase to bond said portions of curds or cheese together to form a unit of cheese.

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